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American Spaces

BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

May 2023 Newsletter

With nearly 600 locations, ECA's Office of American Spaces engages people worldwide through programming and resources. American Spaces support U.S. foreign policy goals and strategically promote public diplomacy.

As always, thank you for sending in your comments and suggestions to americanspaces@state.gov. We hope you enjoy this issue!

Focus on Freedom!

This issue of the Office of American Spaces Newsletter focuses on **freedom**. As we get ready to celebrate **Pride Month** and **Juneteenth** in a few short weeks and the **4th of July** a few short weeks later, please consider using these programming and content resources as you prepare to welcome and educate audiences in person and virtually at your American Spaces.

Faces of American Spaces:

**Hikmet
Novruzaliyev,
American Center,
Baku, Azerbaijan**



Meet **Hikmet Novruzaliyev**, MakerSpace Coordinator at the **American Center in Baku, Azerbaijan**. Hikmet recently attended the American Spaces Tradecraft Training in Vienna, Austria (PY351) and took the opportunity to share his personal American Spaces experience with **REPS Laura Kaspari Hohmann**.

When recounting his journey with American Spaces, Hikmet traced it back to 2004 when he was a young child visiting the American Corner in his hometown. In 2008, he applied for the [FLEX \(Future Leaders Exchange\) Program](#), which granted him a scholarship and an opportunity to study in the United States in Arizona in 2008-2009.

From the Field:

**All Together for
One**



Learn more about the All Together for One Program in **Congo** by clicking on the photo above. Thanks for sharing, **Kraus Mulaya** and **REPS Eli Falcon!**

U.S. Speaker Spot

A periodic feature for the Office of American Spaces Newsletter, we will be featuring upcoming speakers available for virtual programs about priority themes as a partnership with the [Office of the U.S. Speaker Program](#).

In this issue, we are highlighting a potential speaker for Juneteenth programming, with several more speakers featured on the [American Spaces website](#). As always, for more information about the U.S. Speaker Program, and

He remained connected to American Spaces--volunteering during his holiday breaks to assist in teaching others. It was during this time that he met his wife, who also became a FLEX alumna.

Throughout the years, Hikmet maintained his connection with the American Spaces program. Eventually, Hikmet noticed an available position at the American Center and decided to apply. He started working there as a social media coordinator in 2019 and has continued in that role until recently when he transitioned to the position of Maker Space Coordinator.

When asked about advice he could offer to other American Space coordinators, Hikmet emphasized the importance of diversifying program offerings. He believes that by organizing various types of programs, coordinators can attract participants from different backgrounds and communities. This inclusive approach facilitates collaboration and fosters a sense of community, which Hikmet considers to be of great value.

Portions of this interview were edited for clarity and brevity.

to submit a program request, please reach out to your post's Public Diplomacy Section.

[Calinda N. Lee](#) is the founder of Sources Cultural Resources Management, LLC. She has significant experience in both the academic and non-profit communities. Previously, Lee led Interpretation at the National Center for Civil and Human Rights, bringing critical conversations and programs for diversity, equity and inclusion, human rights, and advocacy to the center.



Featured Toolkits and Resources:

We would like to highlight a few key resources for potential upcoming programs:

May 21: Founding of the American Red Cross - see [toolkit](#) and [articles](#)

May 29: Memorial Day - see [Share America Articles](#)

June: LGBTQI+ Pride Month ([toolkit](#)) and National Caribbean-American Heritage Month ([toolkit](#))

June 14: National Flag Day - see official [site](#)

June 19: Juneteenth ([toolkit](#))

June 20: World Refugee Day - see official [site](#) and [toolkit](#)

July 4: US Independence Day - see official [site](#) and [American Revolution toolkit](#)

[Other \(Interactive\) Resources Focused on American History and Democracy:](#)

[Interactive Timeline of the American Revolution](#) Using a mixture of historical objects, artifacts, and documents all drawn from the Museum of American Revolution's collection, this multimedia timeline explores both key moments and surprising stories. You can also [download the app and use it for off-line use!](#) Also consider exploring the museum's [Mini Lesson Plans!](#)

[Standing Up by Sitting Down: a learning experience created by the National Civil Rights Museum](#) Experience the sit in movement and how college students reshaped the United States beginning in 1960. This interactive allows learners to take on the roles of different characters in the narrative. A truly powerful story of civil rights and social justice!

[Reign and Rebellion Interactive Discussion Tool](#) Complete activities on an interactive map to learn about the long-lasting effects of the policies and attitudes of injustice and inequity

cultivated in Virginia and the colonies (now the United States) under the monarchy.

[Making \(Revolutionary\) Art Accessible](#) This Youtube recording provides techniques about making exhibits and programs more interactive and accessible to blind and visually-impaired participants.

[Before the \(Bus\) Boycott](#) An interactive experience to learn about the fight against racial injustice in the United States. Begin your journey here in Montgomery, Alabama in 1955.

[How Revolutionary Are You?](#) Try this interactive tool yourself! And then perhaps, use it in your next English Club or ice breaker activity.

Farmcraft Winners Circle!

On behalf of the U.S. Department of State and implementing partner NASEF, the Office of American Spaces is delighted to offer sincere congratulations to all American Spaces participants in Farmcraft 2023, especially to our winning teams from Bangladesh, Nigeria, and Taiwan. It is exciting to know that of the more than 8,500 students worldwide at least 1,200 from 59 countries were sponsored through American Spaces. Throughout the competition students worked toward solutions to

U.S. Culture

English Language Programming – Critical Creativity Live!

The **Office of English Language Programs** is hosting an upcoming webinar about the [Critical Creativity in Action](#) card deck. This set of cards is a great learning tool and resource for your American Space!

Shuffle the Cards: Unpacking the Critical Creativity in Action Deck (Zoom & FB Live)

When: Tuesday, May 23,
2023 8:00 AM-9:00 AM
(UTC-05:00) Eastern Time
(US & Canada).

Where:

a significant challenge we are all facing together – global food security.

Farmcraft players' objectives were not simple, they performed market research, made smart farming decisions, and sold produce to consumers, all while being mindful of unit pricing and other real-world factors. Thanks to all participants, especially the sponsors and regional American Spaces leads, for the support, competitive spirit and accomplishments of the season. One thing is surely true, our winners know that the secret to team success is cooperation, coordination, and hard work with a clear, shared vision.

***Farmcraft 2023
American Spaces
Winners***

***Sr. Division Winning
Teams (ages 13-18)***

1st Place: **eBLAZE Fire
from EMK Center**

2nd Place: **eBLAZE Air
from EMK Center**

***All Ages Winning Teams
(all ages 8+)***

1st Place: **eBLAZE Water
from EMK Center**

2nd Place: **Formosa
from Taiwan (AIT)**

<https://zoom.us/j/92634206116>

It will be streaming live on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AmericanEnglishforEducators> and will be recorded!

This webinar series provides new methods to implement interactive learning and engage English Language learners at all levels. Please consider downloading a set of cards today and joining the Zoom!

Webinars with Voice of America (VOA) Experts

Voice of America (VOA) has more than 100 experts who are available to present virtual programs in more than 60 languages. They can provide expertise on various subjects, current events, or discuss their work as journalists.

American Spaces coordinators can request a VOA expert to present on multiple topics and in a variety of languages. Each VOA expert's profile indicates languages spoken and areas of expertise. It is important to note that these experts do not speak on behalf of the United

3rd Place: **Green Savers from American Corner Ikeja (Nigeria)**

Adult Sponsors

Team Bangladesh, EMK Center

Ishtiaq Ahmed (eBLAZE Air, eBLAZE Earth, eBLAZE Fire); Tayeba Azrin Nazifa (eBLAZE Water)

Team Nigeria, American Corner Ikeja

Stephanie Adesanya, Enatare Blessing

Team Taiwan

Miller Chen, Jerry Weng, Sharon Wu, Gabi Yen

Regional Team Leads

NEA: John Atick; SCA: Ashfaqar Rahman; WHA: Mario Clemente

Submitted by **Lynne Scheib**

States government, but they can speak as journalists working for VOA, one of the five networks of the U.S. Agency for Global Media (USAGM), an independent federal government agency.

Here's how to make a request:

- Visit VOA Experts database to select a speaker. (If you can't find a specific speaker, you can still make a request as long as you provide VOA with a very specific topic.)
- Consult with your Embassy or post on the topic of the presentation, the speaker, and the audience you want to reach.
- Email publicrelations@voanews.com copying your post with the topic, the speaker, the audience, and other important details regarding the event.

Did You Know?

OASIS

We are pleased to announce that the **Office of American Spaces Information System (OASIS)** is scheduled to

Cities Summit



launch on May 24. **Office of American Spaces Director Fred Boll** would like to thank the 759 REPS, American Officers, LE Staff, and Partner Staff from all six geographic regions who participated in recent training sessions.

*OASIS is at the heart of our efforts to enhance our use of data to inform decision making. It is a tool that simplifies data entry and allows, for the first time, American Spaces practitioners to access statistics and reports about their Spaces. I would like to thank our **Policy Team** for their leadership during this training roll out: **Grant Phillipp, Policy Unit Chief, Rubab Mandaliya, Data Science Manager, and Chris Zammarelli, Data Analyst, as well as Desiree Williamson from the Field Support Team** who assisted with the training calls.*

The Office of American Spaces also appreciates the support provided by **ECA/EX/IT** in planning and carrying out the training, particularly **Lead Business Analyst Danny Elbashari** and **Solutions and Data Branch Chief Nirun Sakulmaeka**. Together, the Policy Team and ECA/EX/IT

REPS Malore Brown with **Ney Espina** from **Centro Venezolano Americano del Zulia** in Maracaibo, Venezuela reconnect at the Office of American Spaces Exhibit during the [Cities Summit of the Americas](#) in Denver, Colorado in late April 2023. (Photo Credit: **Stacia Clifton, Field Support Chief**, Office of American Spaces).

Announcement

Worldwide Call for the 2024-2025 American Film Showcase Proposals

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs' (ECA) Cultural Programs Division has announced the call for proposals for the 2023-2024 program cycle of the American Film Showcase (AFS). AFS is a cultural exchange program that promotes U.S. foreign policy goals by providing access to award-winning films, filmmakers, and media experts. Interested parties must submit their applications and budget proposals by June 19, 2023. [\[read more\]](#)

team successfully created and set up over 800 new user accounts ahead of the upcoming launch. Finally, thanks to the many members of the **OASIS Champions Team** who contributed suggestions and other feedback over the past two years.

Calendar of Events

To provide a further look ahead for potential programming purposes, we are featuring the Office of American Spaces Calendar with dates 3-4 months out here. As always, the full calendar is available on the American Spaces [website](#).

May is Asian-Pacific American Islander Heritage Month ([toolkit](#)) and Jewish-American Heritage Month ([toolkit](#))

May 2: Air Quality Awareness Week (2 - 8) - see [toolkit](#)

May 3: World Press Freedom Day - see [site](#) for programming information

May 4: Star Wars Day - see [official site](#)

May 14: Mother's Day - see [holiday description](#)

May 15: Chocolate Chip Day ([site](#)) and International Day of Families ([official site](#))

May 17: International Day Against Homophobia Transphobia and Biphobia - see [site](#) and [toolkit](#)

May 20: World Bee Day - see [official site](#)

May 21: Founding of the American Red Cross - see [toolkit](#) and [articles](#)

May 22: National Maritime Day - see [official site](#)

May 28: Hamburger Day - see [official site](#)

May 29: Memorial Day - see [Share America Articles](#)

June: LGBTQI+ Pride Month ([toolkit](#)) and National Caribbean-American Heritage Month ([toolkit](#))

June 1: Global Day of Parents - see official [site](#)

June 3: World Bicycle Day - see official [site](#)

June 4: International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression - see official [site](#))

June 5: World Environment Day - see programming [toolkit](#)

June 8: World Ocean Day (official [site](#)), Best Friends Day (official [site](#)), and [toolkit](#)

June 12: World Day Against Child Labour - see official [site](#)

June 14: National Flag Day - see official [site](#)

June 15: Elder Abuse Awareness Day - see official [site](#)

June 17: The World Day to Combat Desertification - see official [site](#)

June 18: Father's Day - see official [site](#)

June 19: Juneteenth ([toolkit](#)) and International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict (official [site](#))

June 20: World Refugee Day - see official [site](#)

June 26: International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (official [site](#) and [toolkit](#))

June 27: Micro-, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises Day (official [site](#) and [toolkits](#))

June 29: International Day of the Tropics - see official [site](#)

June 30: Meteor Watch Day - see official [site](#)

July 1: International Joke Day - see official [site](#)

July 4: US Independence Day - see official [site](#)

July 8: Video Games Day - see official [site](#)

July 11: World Population Day - see [Health and Environment Resources](#)

July 15: World Youth Skills Day - Here are STEAM resources and resources for [entrepreneurship](#)

July 17: World Emoji Day - see official [site](#)

July 18: Nelson Mandela International Day - see official [site](#)

July 20: Space Exploration Day

- [NASA Kids' Club](#)
- [NASA for Educators](#)
- [NASA American English language resources](#)

July 26: Americans with Disabilities Act - see official [site](#)

July 28: Milk Chocolate Day (official [site](#)) and World Hepatitis Day (official [site](#))

July 30: World Day against Trafficking in Persons - see [toolkit](#)

August is International Peace Month

August 6: Sisters' Day - see official [site](#)

August 9: International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples (official [site](#) and [toolkit](#))

August 12: International Youth Day - see official [site](#) and [Teacher's Guide on Volunteerism](#)

August 19: World Humanitarian Day - see official [site](#)

August 21: International Day of Victims of Terrorism - see official [site](#)

August 22: International Day Commemorating Victims of Violence based on Religion or Belief (official [site](#) and [toolkit](#))

August 23: International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition (official [site](#) and [toolkit](#))

August 26: Women’s Equality Day - see [Photos](#)

August 29: International Day against Nuclear Tests - see official [site](#)

NOTE: *For the summer, the American Spaces Newsletter will be sent once a month. Please check out americanspaces.state.gov or the Facebook page for the most recent programming news!*

Thanks to all of you who have shared your programming ideas and highlights with your colleagues through our American Spaces FB page. You can continue to share your news and information by emailing us at AmericanSpaces@state.gov. If you have any questions or content to add, email Karlene Noel Jennings at JenningsKN@state.gov.

To add someone to this newsletter, email us at AmericanSpaces@state.gov.



American Spaces

Want to learn about more events in your area or causes you care about? Tell us about yourself and your interests here:

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